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Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

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Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum**

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* A/71/150.

** The information contained in the present addendum was received after the issuance of the main report or for technical reasons could not be processed in time for inclusion in that report.

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III. Reply received from the European Union

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The strengthening of security and internal regional cooperation in the Mediterranean and in the broad Middle East remains high on the European agenda.

Cooperation was reinforced through relevant regional organizations, especially with the Union for the Mediterranean. A number of high-level meetings were conducted and a new phase of engagement with Mediterranean partners was opened, aiming at building more effective partnership within the context of the reviewed European Neighbourhood Policy. The European Neighbourhood Policy review proposed concrete measures to reinforce partners' resilience against threats, such as countering the terrorist threat and preventing radicalization, as well as supporting security sector reform and border management.

Where possible, the European Union cooperated with the southern Mediterranean countries on economic, security, political and civil society tracks. The European Union stepped up its engagement in favour of countries that are implementing political and economic reforms, such as Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. This translated into enhanced political dialogue, significant European Union financial assistance, agreement on the priorities for the partnerships and progress in key policy areas. Specifically on security, the European Union launched counter-terrorism dialogues with those partners.

The European Union maintained its position as the region's largest donor and foreign aid provider. Following the Valetta summit on migration in November 2015, additional European Union support on migration is being provided to North African countries. The European Union notes the important contribution to the success of the Valletta summit by Morocco and Egypt, as chairs of the Rabat and Khartoum processes respectively.

The European Union contributed substantially to the 2015 agreement on the nuclear programme of the Islamic Republic of Iran and is actively involved with and fully committed to the follow-up and implementation of the agreement.

The European Union has been an active participant in the International Syria Support Group since its creation in Vienna in October 2015 and is fully committed to the implementation of Security Council resolution 2254 (2015), notably in relation to humanitarian access, cessation of hostilities leading to a ceasefire and advancing political transition. The European Union sustained those efforts and played its part in supporting the intra-Syrian talks and de-escalating regional tensions. Since the London conference "Supporting Syria and the Region" of February 2016, the European Union has offered a package of €2.39 billion for the period 2016-2017 to alleviate the consequences of the crisis for neighbours of the Syrian conflict, in addition to contributions provided by European Union member States.

Strongly supported by the European Union, the United Nations-led mediation efforts succeeded in establishing a Government of National Accord in Libya. The European Union has prepared a €100 million package, which includes ongoing programmes.

The European Union appointed a European Union Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process to reinforce its engagement with the parties and international partners. It continued its efforts with a view to ending violence, preserving the viability of the two-State solution and creating a new dynamic for negotiations.

Political dialogue has been further intensified with regional partners such as the League of Arab States and in November 2015, the European Union-League of Arab States Strategic Dialogue was established. The European Union also seeks to work with the Gulf States in addressing challenges in the region, such as those in Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen and the Horn of Africa.